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On the Hill



FNS Receives Appropriations Funding for Fiscal Year 1990

On July 13, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture and Related Agencies marked up the Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1990 (H.R. 2883). The bill was passed by the House with no changes on July 18.

A total of \$21.791 billion was appropriated to administer and operate FNS programs--approximately \$333.0 million greater than the Bush budget request.

Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- o Funds provided for the Child Nutrition Programs were in line with the current law request with the exception that \$3.6 million was provided for Federal reviews. Of this amount, \$2.6 million was designated for reviews and the remainder for training. At this level, it is estimated that only half of the planned reviews for fiscal year 1990 would result.

- o The Special Milk Program was funded at the budget request level of \$20.449 million.

- o The budget authority level for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children was increased by \$164.7 million to a level of \$2.126 billion. The committee expects that farmers' market demonstrations will continue with up to \$2.0 million set aside for that purpose.

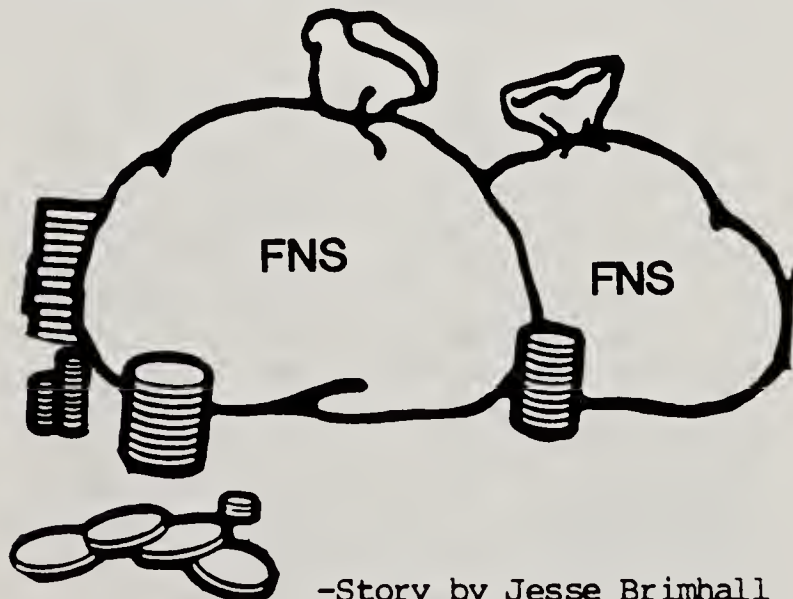
- o An additional \$3.0 million above the budget request was provided for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

- o The committee provided \$13.263 billion for the Food Stamp Program and \$936.750 million for Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico (NAP). The NAP amount includes specific funding of \$10.825 million for the tick eradication project.

- o Total funds of \$246.510 million were provided for the cash and commodity programs. This level is the same as the budget request.

- o Once again the committee added \$50.0 million for administrative expenses for state and local distribution of donated commodities in the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program.

- o For the Food Program Administration, the committee provided \$93.026 million or \$3.804 million less than the budget request and required 100 percent pay-cost absorption. At this level, the agency may have to curtail or postpone several major initiatives.



-Story by Jesse Brimhall
Budget Division

National Child-Care Meeting Convenes in Santa Fe

The new adult day-care component of the Child Care Food Program was the hot topic when FNS headquarters and regional child-care staff met with child-care representatives from the 50 states at a national conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The 3-day meeting was hosted by the New Mexico Health and Environment Department.

Child Nutrition Director Sam Bauer presided with assistance from Stan Garnett, Beverly King, Bob Eadie, Fran Zorn, Jim O'Donnell, Cynthia Ford, Barbara de Baca of the National Council on the Aging, and Ruth Von Behren, president of the National Institute on Adult Day Care.



Stan Garnett's legislative update was part of the opening general session of the National Child-Care Meeting in Santa Fe.

A general session addressed legislative, commodity, and Key Element Report System updates; a perspective on adult day care; and a review of studies and demonstration projects. Afterwards, the group divided for a series of workshops on sponsor and center issues, the infant meal pattern, day-care home issues, state administrative expense and other financial concerns, outside-school-hours care centers, the proposed adult day-care meal pattern, and implementation of the new adult day-care component, which drew the most interest and questions from participants.



Peggy Baraby, Montana child-care program director, chats with Ersielene Ruffin, MPRO, during coffee break at National Child-Care Meeting in Santa Fe.

The child-care meeting will be repeated every 2 years. An invitation was extended to consider New Orleans as the site of the 1991 meeting.

-Story and photos by Joanne Widner
MPRO Affairs Staff

MARO Sponsors Adult Day-Care Nutrition Workshop

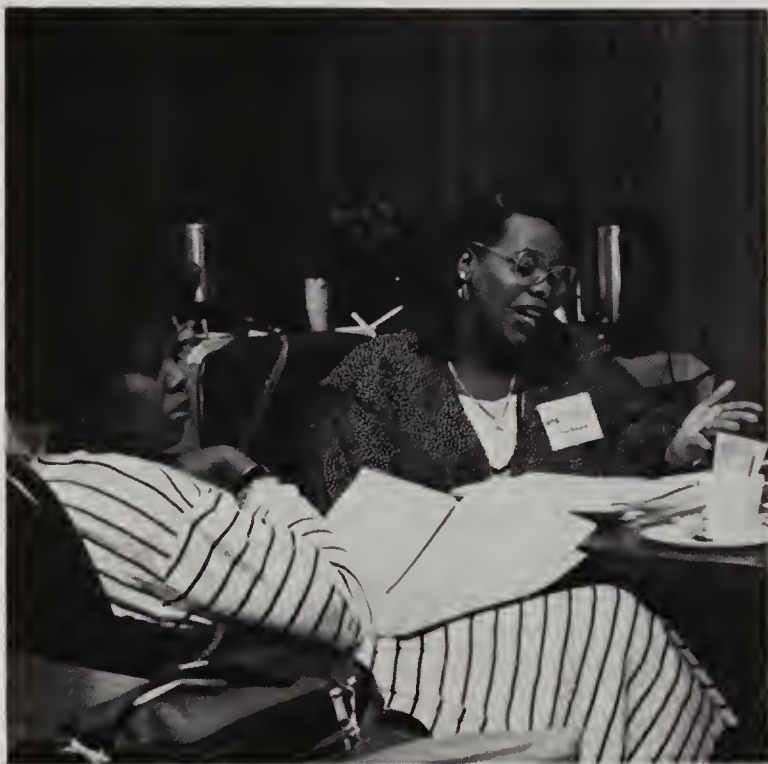
MARO conducted a workshop concerning new adult day-care provisions in the Child Care Food Program. Its aim was to develop questions that headquarters would address at the National Child-Care Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Participants included 15 members of the State Departments of Education associated with the implementation of adult day care in the region and Special Nutrition Division representative James O'Donnell.

Since the program was relatively new to the members, the discussion centered primarily on unresolved questions and

(Workshop Continued Next Page)

issues. These included: (1) licensing and approval; (2) participant eligibility; (3) payment and reporting procedures; (4) retroactive reimbursements; (5) the difficulty of tracking monies under Titles III, XVI, XIX, and XX; and (6) the need for better definitions of key terminology.

Participants also discussed how many adult day-care centers operated in their states and how they were presently licensed.



Virgin Islands program specialist Diedre Peterson (left) looks on as CCFP Coordinator Elva Richards (right) explains adult day-care status in the Virgin Islands.

Adult day-care centers' primary function must be service to functionally impaired adults and adults 60 years or older. Centers must be licensed or approved by Federal, state, or local authorities to provide adult day-care services on a less than 24-hour basis. In most states, the program is administered by the State Department of Education.

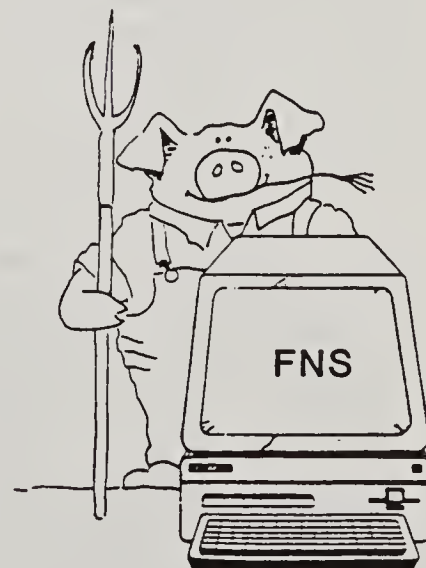
-Story by Kim Jabat
Photo by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

Improving Field Communications

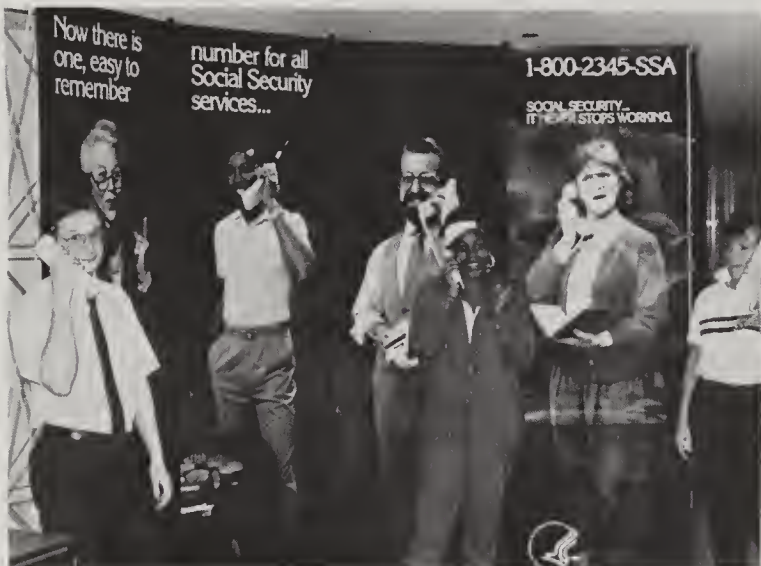
MPRO field offices are taking a giant step into the computer age. MPRO's Charlie Closs (Automated Data Processing) and Gale Brady of the assistant regional administrator's office have installed speedier modems and have trained field office staff to use Carbon Copy software. Nine field offices and a satellite office will use Carbon Copy to dial in and log onto the region's local area network (LAN). Each will be assigned a specific daily time to tie into the network to send or receive messages. By replacing their 1200-baud modems with 2400 baud, the connection between the field and the region seems to be accomplished almost as rapidly as being tied into the LAN through a token ring.

Reports such as quality control (QC) logs are now no farther away than 24 hours from the regional office, since each office's regularly assigned time occurs daily. Field offices will also have access at that time to the electronic mailbox and can read any messages sent to the field or to a specific staff member from the region or other field staff. They can pick up, read or download specific files, or send files elsewhere. In addition, Federal Review System reviewers in the field will be able to run dBaseIII on the region's LAN to query the database that Special Nutrition Programs is developing.

Prior to installation of the new system, food stamp QC records were all on SuperCalc. Regional program staff had to call a field office to crosstalk a QC log, which usually took 30 minutes or more.



NERO Food Stamp Director Promotes Public Employees



NERO employees Paul Havey, Angela Carter, and Debbie Ferguson pose in front of the social security booth while visiting an exhibit of government agencies in the Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building in Boston. The exhibit, one of the many activities held as part of Public Service Recognition Week, featured displays by numerous Federal, state, and local government agencies.

It was sponsored by the Northeast Chapter of the Public Employees Roundtable, of which Lynda Silva, NERO Food Stamp Program director, is president.

"We sponsored the exhibit to let public employees know what's going on in other agencies," said Silva. "Public employees all have one thing in common--they serve their fellow citizens. This exhibit was intended to let people know what services are being provided by their counterparts in other agencies."

Silva, in her role as president, has been very active in representing public employees and government agencies as employers. Earlier this year she spoke to a group of Massachusetts High School guidance counselors concerning the role of public employees. She also arranged an exhibition on Careers in Public Service at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

FNS Exhibits at Michigan Trade Show

The Associated Food Dealers of Michigan invited the Detroit Field Office to exhibit and explain the food assistance programs at its recent annual trade show.

More than 1,000 retailers visited over 100 booths representing mostly food dealers and merchandizers. Field office representatives were able to answer questions from retailers already participating in USDA programs and other interested ones.

"We distributed various signs and handbooks as well as statistics on food assistance in Michigan," said Officer in Charge J.W. Younce. "Our most popular items were the Cashier Training Manual, the Guide for Retailers, and window decals."

Younce reported the most frequently asked questions dealt with sandwiches and hot foods, and change-making abuse was the most frequent topic of conversation. WRO's food stamp training tape, set up to run constantly, drew attention to the FNS booth and prompted questions from the audience.



Detroit Field Office food program specialist Manfred Fuchs (center) explains retailer authorization procedures and requirements to retailers.

-Story and photo by J.W. Younce
Detroit Field Officer in Charge

Alternate Food Stamp Issuance System Gets Good Review

NERO Administrator Harold McLean and Food Stamp Director Lynda Silva made several site visits in New York to monitor the progress of the Alternate Food Stamp Issuance (AFSI) System. Under AFSI, a pilot project, issuance sites are located in select retail

grocery stores and all authorization-to-participate transactions are validated through an automated linkup. Each issuance includes electronic validation of all pertinent benefit information and is recorded for end-of-month reconciliation and reporting.



Harold McLean (left) and Lynda Silva discuss the system with Lee Vinokur (right) of the RAN Checkcashing Corporation, part of the original issuance system.



Nassau County Commissioner Joseph D'Elia (center) expressed his satisfaction with the new food stamp issuance system to NERO Administrator Harold McLean and Food Stamp Director Lynda Silva.

-Photos by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

Iowa Teamwork Extends Nutrition Education Capability

Iowa's Department of Education staff has successfully integrated Child Care Food Program (CCFP) sponsor training into an existing training program for food service personnel held each summer on the campus of Iowa State University. Iowa stretches its nutrition education budget and avoids duplication of effort by allowing child-care sponsors to attend some of the entry-level school food service courses as well as those specifically oriented to CCFP needs.

The state's Bureau of Food and Nutrition trainers had targeted Head Start programs but also took into consideration non-Head Start child-care sponsor needs. Last year's premier session drew 34 child-care participants. The 3-day course at Iowa State University used on-campus housing to hold down course costs. Attendees

learned the basics of menu planning for child-care facilities and watched preparation demonstrations by meat and poultry industry representatives.

The child-care sponsors joined the food service trainees for demonstrations on quick bread and salad preparation and attended a session on vitamins and minerals. The combined group of about 225 people also covered part of the basic short course provided to food preparers each summer.

Since some material for both groups overlaps, the project successfully achieved its dual objectives and will be repeated this summer on the Ames campus.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Asian/Pacific American Celebration at MARO

MARO recently celebrated Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week (APAHW) by sponsoring numerous activities.

Kicking off the events was an exciting martial arts exhibition by the Princeton Academy of Martial Arts. Martial arts history and style differences were discussed and demonstrated.

A demonstration by MARO's own Lucy Mao, nutritionist and registered dietitian, outlined the development and analysis of Chinese calligraphy. Employees acquired a better understanding of how Chinese writing symbols represent words.

Guest speaker Grayce Uyehara, who was the Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League Legislative Education Committee (retired 10/88), spoke about the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Uyehara was encamped at the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas during 1942-43.

An exhibit of Asian clothes, photos, movies, music, and other artifacts was displayed.



Practicing the art of origami is Fran Heil, food program specialist and quality control team leader.

The celebration culminated with a food demonstration and sampling by MARO's APAHW Committee members: Lau Sheung-Dong, Kim Peretik-Jabat, Yuri Kita, Lucy Mao, Freda Santos, and Brendo Styles. Cuisines featured included Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino.

-Story and photo by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

(IFC Continued)

Now, it's almost as fast as transferring a file from one drive to another--a matter of seconds.

Other streamlined uses of the new tie-in include on-line time-and-attendance reports and a travel expenditure tracking system maintained by the assistant regional administrator's office. Officers in charge will now be able to update regional travel logs as soon as vouchers are completed in the field.

MARO has always maintained a close coordination with its field and satellite offices. Carbon Copy will make that connection easier and faster.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MARO Public Affairs Staff

DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

- Eat a variety of foods
- Maintain desirable weight
- Avoid too much fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol
- Eat foods with adequate starch and fiber
- Avoid too much sugar
- Avoid too much sodium
- If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation

West Virginia Conducts Unique CCFP Training

Shirley Miller, food program specialist, Charleston Field Office, delivered a unique form of Child Care Food Program (CCFP) training on meal-pattern requirements by using a laboratory setting.



Shirley Miller, food program specialist, prepares food for food laboratory workshop.

The training was unique because CCFP sponsors participated in the 31-station food laboratory. Each person weighed and measured food samples and then determined appropriate serving sizes. The participants also were taught to distinguish between reimbursable and nonreimbursable foods and how to allow for shrinkage during cooking when buying in quantity.

"These are important tasks for CCFP sponsors because they must serve children according to USDA meal-pattern requirements," said Miller.

The following CCFP sponsors attended the workshop: Russell County Head Start, Mountain Community Action Head Start, Rooftop of Virginia Community Action, People Inc. of Southwest Virginia, and Marion County Child Care Center.

OIC Marjorie Davis and food program specialist William Robertson assisted with the presentation and setup of the workstations.

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff
Photos by Marjorie Davis
and William Robertson
Charleston Field Office

NERO Employees Honored by Boston Federal Executive Board

Harold McLean, NERO administrator, poses with Lois Jarema (left) and Barbara Pisano, two NERO employees recently recognized by the Boston Federal Executive Board for their outstanding work.

Each year the board's Women's Opportunity Committee recognizes exceptional performance by one clerk and one secretary in each Boston Federal agency. Jarema was cited for her contributions as support services clerk. Pisano was recognized for her continued excellent performance as secretary for the deputy regional administrator.



(NERO Continued Last Page)

20th Anniversary Photo Trivia



Okay, ah one, ah two, left kick! right kick!



The party's over?

What do
you mean
a check of
my papers
shows I
have to
work 3
more
years!?





We're all gathered here today for...

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	5/6	07/31/89	89-139	ORO
o Food Program Spec.	(G)	GS-0120	9/11	08/07/89	89-140	PAD
o Food Program Spec.	(A)	GS-0120	9/11	08/07/89	89-140A	PAD
o Economist	(A)	GS-0110	13	08/14/89	89-141	PID
o Personnel Staff Spec.	(G)	GS-0212	11/12	08/07/89	89-142	PED
o Secretary Typing	(HNIS)	GS-0318	6	08/07/89	89-H-143	HNIS
o Food Program Spec.	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0120	7	07/31/89	89-144	CND

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 CND - Child Nutrition Division
 PED - Personnel Division
 PID - Program Information Division
 ORO - Office of Regional Operations
 PAD - Program Accountability Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition Information Service

(NERO Continued)

"These two individuals have contributed significantly to the office, both in terms of their work effort and their pleasant personalities," McLean said. "I'm pleased that Lois and Barbara were selected. These awards are well-deserved."

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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